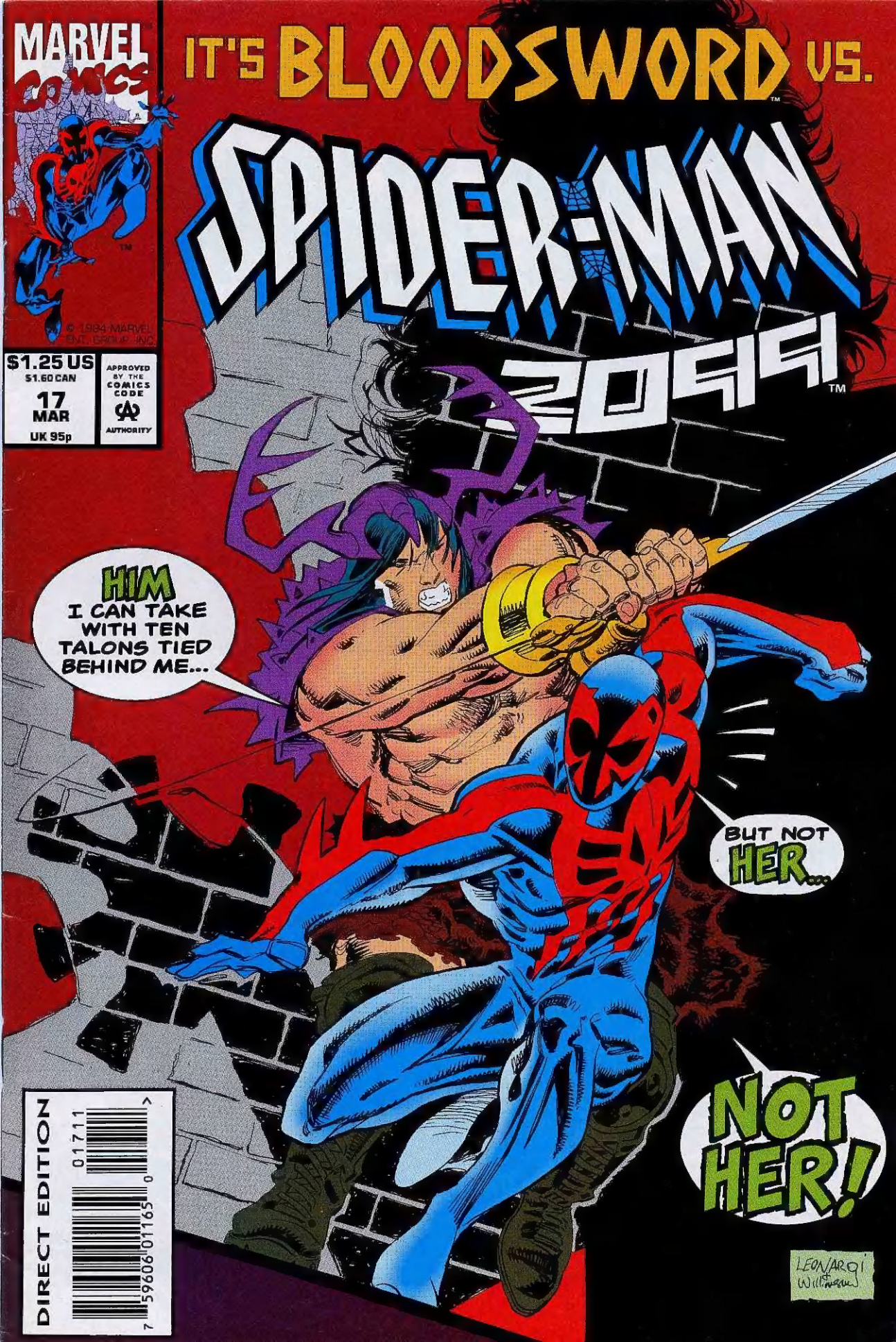
MARVEL COMICS
IT'S BLOODSWORD VS.
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HIM
I CAN TAKE WITH TEN TALONS TIED BEHIND ME...
BUT NOT HER...
NOT HER!
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Williamson

SPIDER-MAN 2099™ Vol. 1, No. 17, March, 1994. (ISSN #1067-5116) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published monthly. Copyright © 1994 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.60 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $15.00 U.S.; $27.00 foreign; and Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SPIDER-MAN 2099 (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SPIDER-MAN 2099, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. PRINTED IN USA.**

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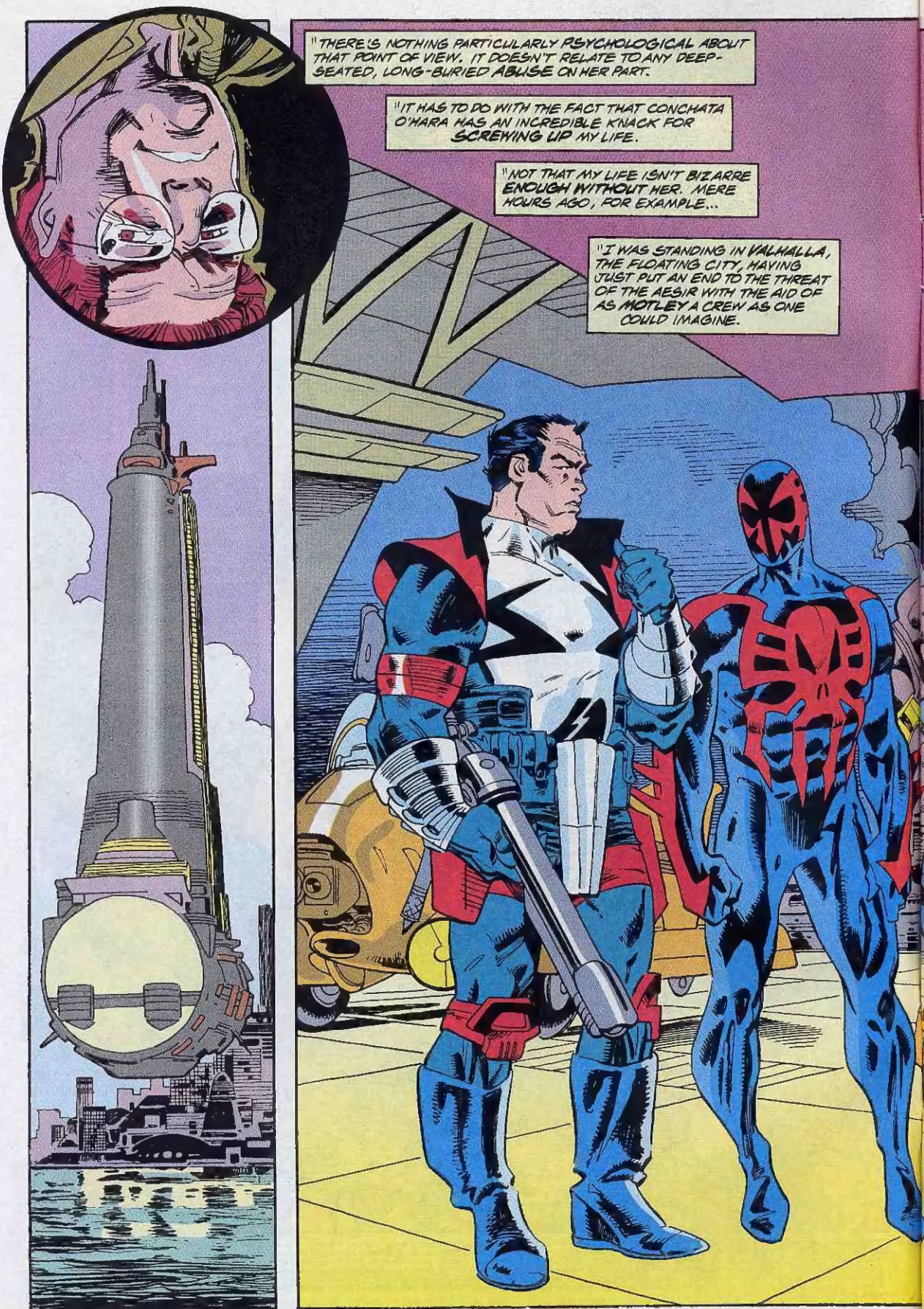
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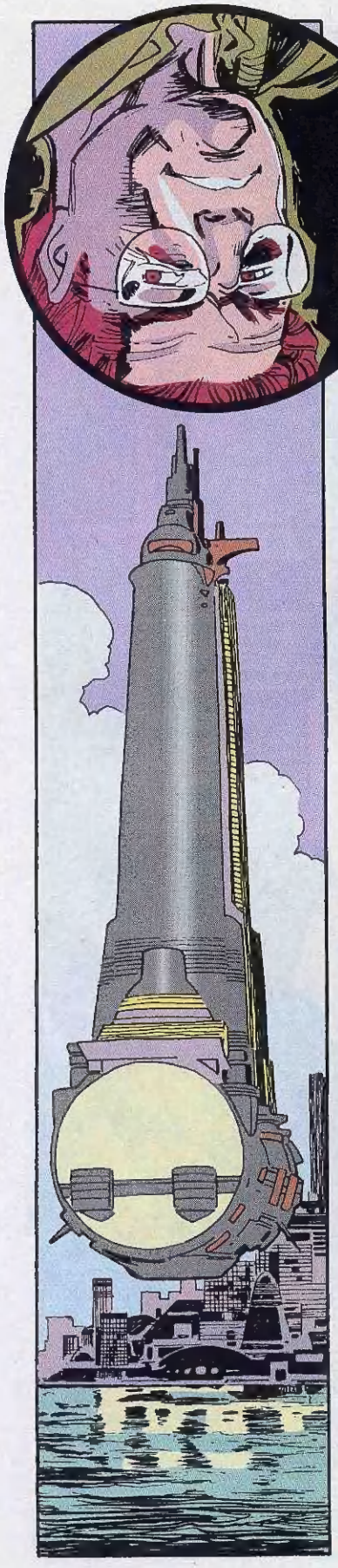
"IT HAS TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT CONCHATA O'HARA HAS AN INCREDIBLE KNACK FOR SCREWING UP MY LIFE.
"NOT THAT MY LIFE ISN'T BIZARRE ENOUGH WITHOUT HER. MERE HOURS AGO, FOR EXAMPLE...
"I WAS STANDING IN VALHALLA, THE FLOATING CITY, HAVING JUST PUT AN END TO THE THREAT OF THE AESIR WITH THE AID OF AS MOTLEY A CREW AS ONE COULD IMAGINE.



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"THE PUNISHER, WITH AN UNNATURAL OBSESSION FOR FIREARMS THAT COULD KEEP A FREUDIAN OR SAMSONIAN PSYCHIATRIST BUSY FOR YEARS.

"RAVAGE, WHO APPARENTLY HAD ONLY THE FAINTEST GRASP OF PERSONAL HYGIENE. AND DOOM, WHO WATCHED US AS IF HE WERE STUDYING MICROBES.

"THE PUNISHER RECOMMENDED IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE FROM THE ABANDONED CITY, BEFORE WE WERE OUT OF RANGE OF HIS SKYCYCLE TO TRANSPORT US. AND DOOM SAID..."

YES, LET US LEAVE THIS FLOATING ECOLOGICAL NIGHTMARE. WITH NO ONE TO MAINTAIN OUR JURY-RIGGED REPAIRS, I PROJECT TOTAL ENGINE FAILURE WITHIN THE NEXT FOUR HOURS.

"IT SEEMED AS IF THE FISH WOULD HAVE YET ANOTHER ATLANTIS TO KEEP THEM ENTERTAINED. STILL...

"I THOUGHT THAT DOOM HAD AGREED TOO READILY.

"AND THEN I REALIZED I WAS RIGHT."

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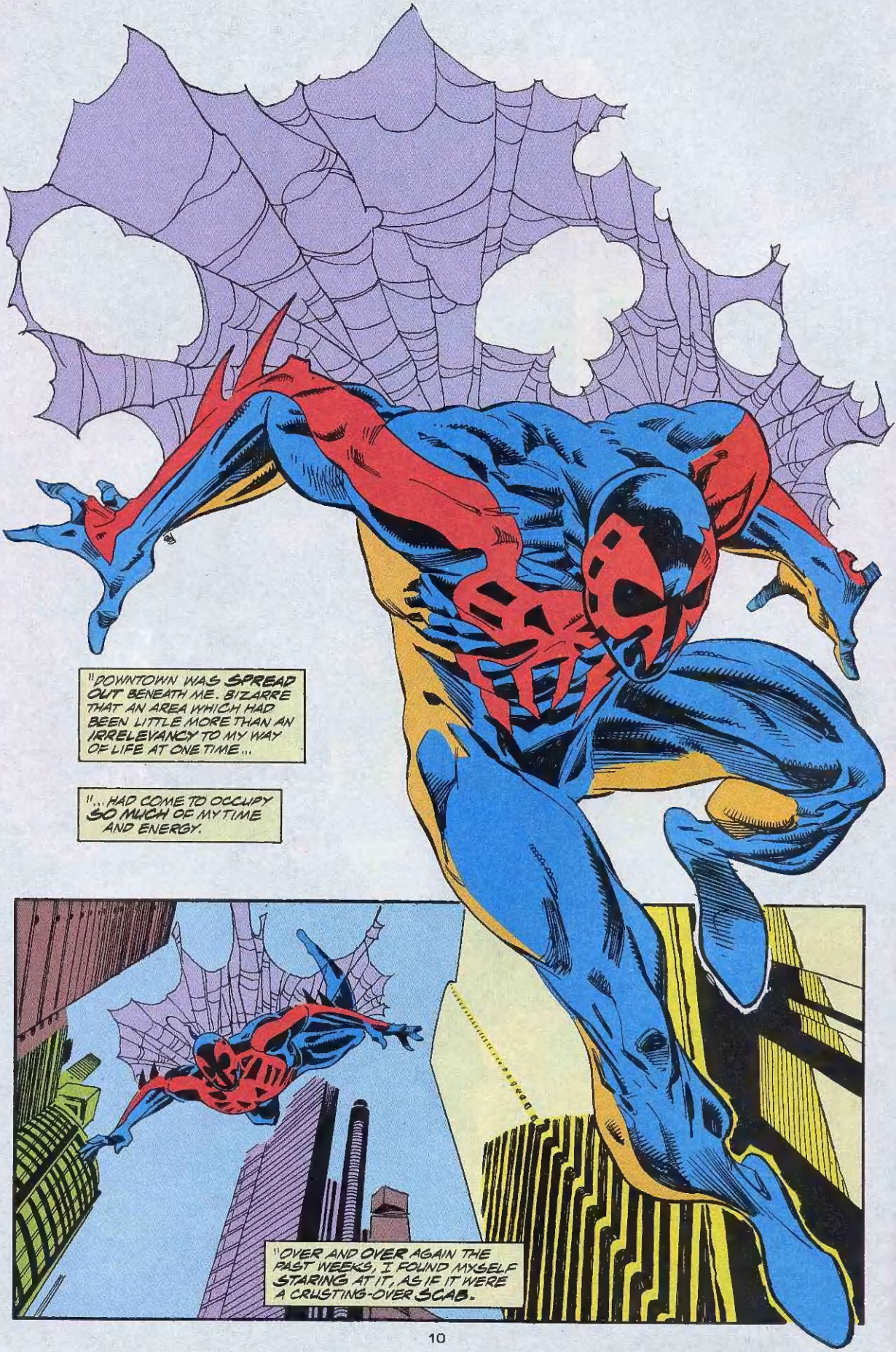
"AND THEN I REALIZED I WAS RIGHT."

IT'S CHANGING COURSE! PUNISHER, LOOK! IT'S CHANGING COURSE!
IT'S STILL HEADING OUT TO SEA, BUT IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION! IT'S BEING GUIDED!
"JURY-RIGGED," MY BULLET-PROOFED BUTT! DOOM'S CONTROLLING IT!
THAT WASN'T PART OF THE DEAL!
AND I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HE'S UP TO!
WELL, WELL. YOU SEEM TO BE UNDER THE IMPRESSION YOU ARE STILL NEEDED HERE.
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR ALLIES!
INDEED YOU ARE, PUNISHER. AS A PAWN IS ALLIED WITH A KING... UNTIL IT IS NO LONGER NEEDED.

I HAVE RELIEVED YOU OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR VALHALLA.
SAYS WHO?!
WERE YOU NOT LISTENING? I SAID IT.
AS I RECALL, IN THE ERA OF YOUR ORIGINAL COUNTERPARTS, THE CORRECT THING TO SAY AT THIS MOMENT WOULD BE...
ZNAKK
"HAVE A NICE DAY!"
PUNISHER!!!
I KNOW, I KNOW!
OKAY. I GOT THE STABILIZERS BACK ON LINE.
NOW WE GO AFTER...
THE SHOCK WE DO. IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, THE CITY'S OUT OF RANGE. AND EVEN IF BY SOME MIRACLE WE DID CATCH UP, DOOM CAN JUST ZAP US AGAIN... PERMANENTLY.

I'VE HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH. JUST DROP ME OFF.
DON'T YOU CARE THAT DOOM JUST MADE OFF WITH VALHALLA?
YES, AND I'D LIKE TO LIVE TO KEEP CARING. PURSUING THE MATTER NOW WILL MAKE THAT UNLIKELY.
THE ONLY BATTLES WORTH FIGHTING ARE THE HOPELESS ONES.
I'VE HEARD THAT. BUT FIGHTING A HOPELESS BATTLE IS LIKE SELF-IMMOLATION. GREAT TRICK, BUT LIMITED REPEAT POTENTIAL.
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE A REAL MAN.
THEN I'D CALL MYSELF "REAL MAN," NOT "SPIDER-MAN."
WHICH MEANS WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH, YOU BUG OUT.
YEAH, RIGHT. BY THE WAY, MY ATTORNEY WILL BE CALLING YOU ABOUT YOUR CHEST EMBLEM.


"DOWNTOWN WAS SPREAD OUT BENEATH ME. BIZARRE THAT AN AREA WHICH HAD BEEN LITTLE MORE THAN AN IRRELEVANCY TO MY WAY OF LIFE AT ONE TIME...
"...HAD COME TO OCCUPY SO MUCH OF MY TIME AND ENERGY.
"OVER AND OVER AGAIN THE PAST WEEKS, I FOUND MYSELF STARING AT IT, AS IF IT WERE A CRUSTING-OVER SCAB.

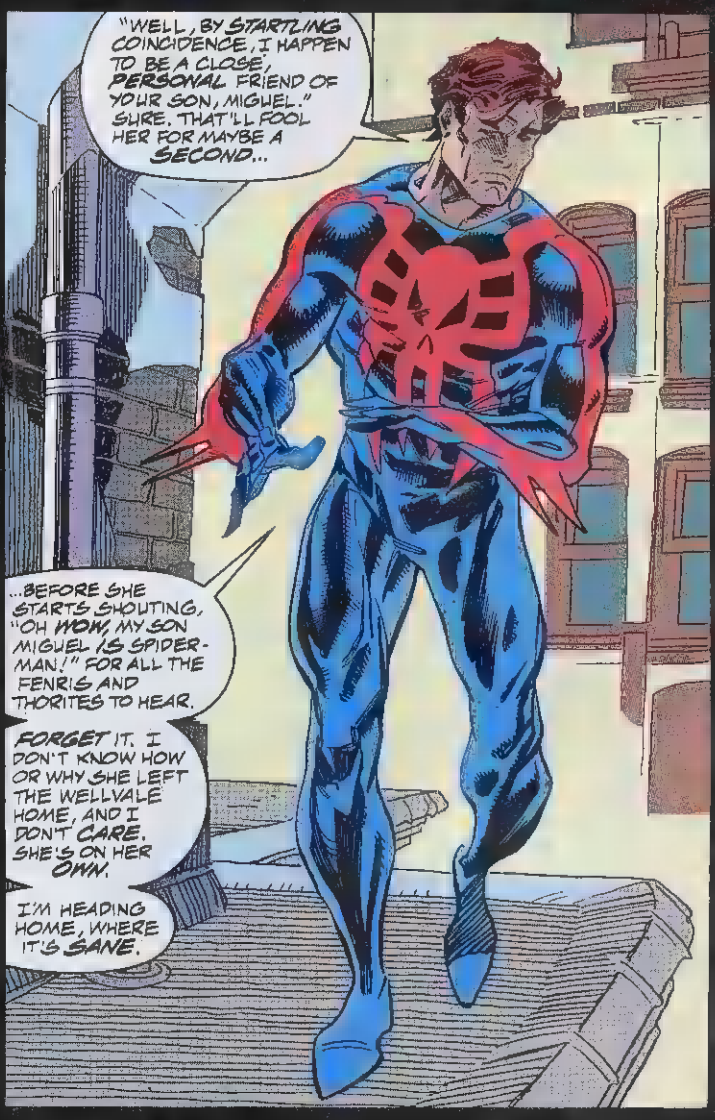
"AND, AS SOMETIMES HAPPENS WITH SCABS, I FOUND MYSELF IRRESISTABLY PICKING AWAY AT IT.
"SUCH ACTIONS SERVE NO PURPOSE, EXCEPT PERHAPS THE PRIMAL NEED TO MUCK AROUND WITH SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE BETTER LEFT ALONE.
"DOWNTOWN, THE UNDERBELLY OF NEW YORK, WAS A PLACE WHERE I HAD FOUND MYSELF WANTING TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT WOULD SERVE SOMEONE OTHER THAN MYSELF.
"BUT I HAD ONLY MANAGED TO DO SO BY BECOMING A POSEUR. A CHARLATAN. THE 'HARBINGER OF THOR.'
"WELL, THOR HAD COME AND GONE, AND IT HAD PROVEN SOMETHING OF A WASHOUT. PERHAPS THAT MEANT MY CHARADE WAS THROUGH AS WELL, WHICH DIDN'T UPSET ME.
"THE PROBLEM WAS THAT A VACUUM HAD BEEN CREATED IN THE FAITH DEPARTMENT, AND NATURE ABHORS A VACUUM.
"AND WHEN NATURE DECIDES TO FILL THAT VACUUM, THEN THINGS CAN REALLY START TO SUCK.

"THE RALLY WAS LOUD AND BOISTEROUS AND FAIRLY MASSIVE. LARGER THAN ANY GATHERING I'D SEEN IN DOWNTOWN BEFORE.
"PERHAPS THE FRACTIOUS GROUPS, CALLED 'CLIQUES,' HAD BEGUN TO UNITE. BUT UNDER WHOSE LEADERSHIP WAS THAT UNITY TO OCCUR?
"AND THEN MY ACCELERATED VISION SAW THREE THINGS, ONE AFTER THE OTHER, WHICH GOT ME PROGRESSIVELY MORE UPSET."
BLOODSWORD! THAT IDIOT? I THOUGHT I DISPOSED OF HIM IN SHORT ENOUGH ORDER TO... *
THAT WAS ONE.
*SPIDER-MAN 2099 #14 -- JOEY
OH SHOCK. THAT'S THOR'S HAMMER! WHERE DID HE--?
THAT WAS TWO.
MOM!!!
THREE STRIKES, I'M OUT.

TERRIFIC! JUST STUPENDOUS!
I SHOULD LEAVE HER! THAT'S ALL. I SHOULD JUST LEAVE HER!

WHAT THE SHOCK AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?!
IF I GO DOWN AS SPIDER-MAN, I JUST PERPETUATE THE SPIDER-MAN-AS-SAVIOR THING.

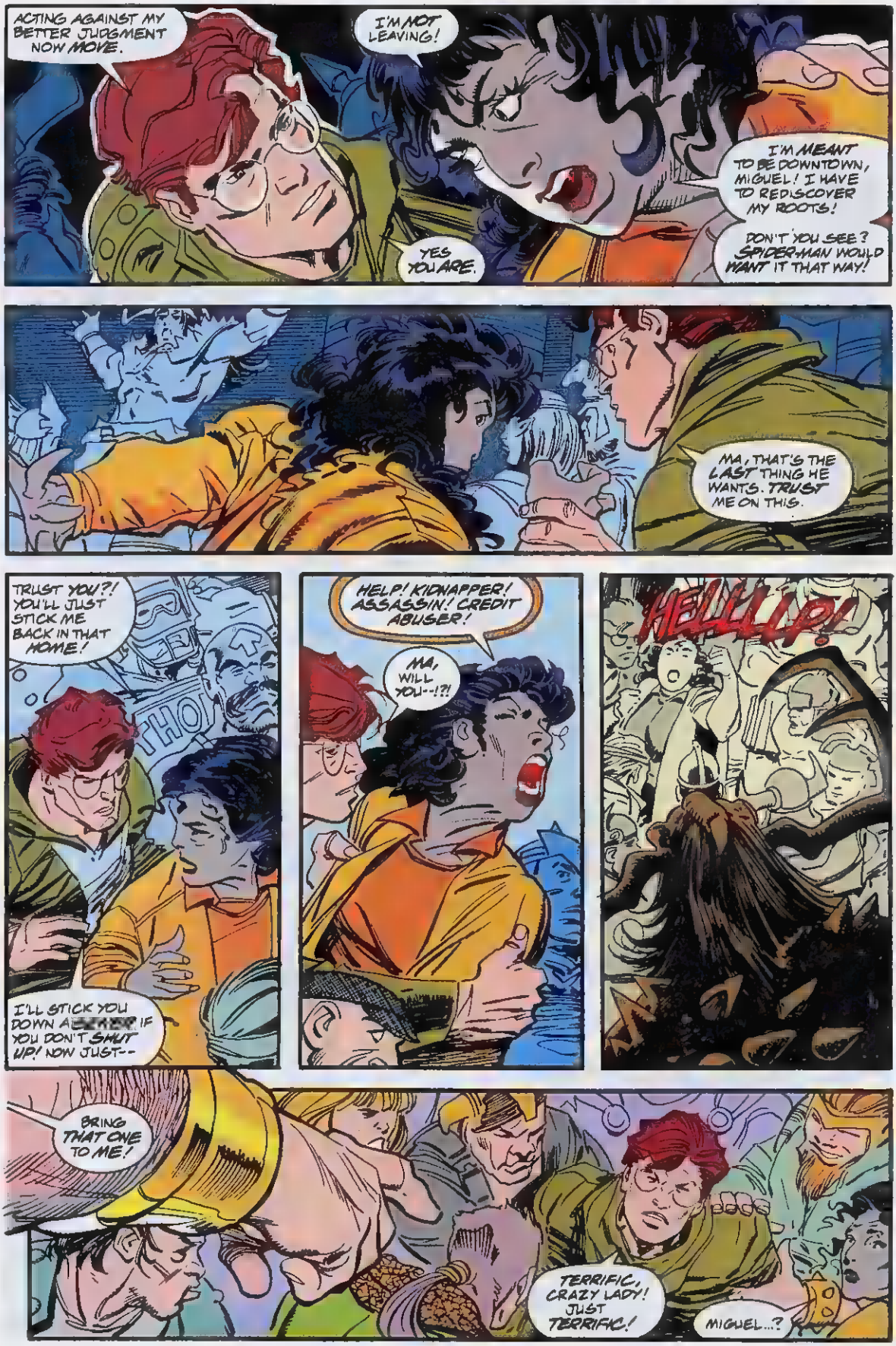
PLUS, HOW DO I HANDLE IT? ESCORT HER?
"EXCUSE ME, MRS. O'HARA, BUT YOUR KIDS WERE WORRIED, SO THEY CONTACTED ME." HOW? HMMM...


"WELL, BY STARTLING COINCIDENCE, I HAPPEN TO BE A CLOSE, PERSONAL FRIEND OF YOUR SON, MIGUEL." SURE. THAT'LL FOOL HER FOR MAYBE A SECOND...
...BEFORE SHE STARTS SHOUTING, "OH WOW, MY SON MIGUEL IS SPIDER-MAN!" FOR ALL THE FENRIS AND THORITES TO HEAR.
FORGET IT. I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY SHE LEFT THE WELLVALE HOME, AND I DON'T CARE. SHE'S ON HER OWN.
I'M HEADING HOME, WHERE IT'S SANE.

UH, LOOK, LYLA... I'M GETTING A LITTLE FULL. MAYBE I SHOULD COME BACK LATER...
HOW CAN YOU BE FULL? THEY'RE SO LIGHT AND AIRY...
OOOH! WE HAVE ANOTHER GUEST!
HELLO, DANA! WOULD YOU LIKE A CRULLER?
IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, SAY "YES."
DANA! GOOD LORD! YOU'RE ASHEN!
DOES THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE FLOATING CITY THAT WAS ALL OVER THE NEWS?
HONEY--?
MIGUEL IS DEAD!!!

WHEN I WAS CHOSEN, I, BLOODSWORD, THE LEADER OF THE FENRIS WAS FACING A GREAT CRISIS!
MY TRUSTED LIEUTENANT, HOGUN, HAD CHALLENGED ME FOR LEADERSHIP!
HE THOUGHT MY DEFEAT BY THE CRAVEN SPIDER-MAN, THE FALSE HARBINGER, HAD MADE ME WEAK!
WE FACED EACH OTHER, AND HE CHORTLED HIS CONFIDENCE.
AND THEN A WHISTLING SOUND FROM OVERHEAD...
...BROUGHT HIM UP SHORT.

THE MIGHTY HAMMER DID NOT SLOW AN INSTANT, BUT FELL STRAIGHT AND TRUE UPON THE HEAD OF HOGUN.
HAPPENSTANCE? POOR LUCK FOR HOGUN?
NO, MY FRIENDS...
A SIGN FROM ON HIGH.
A SIGN THAT I AM TO BE THE STANDARD BEARER FOR THE AESIR!
THE GODS MOVE IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS...AND THEY HAVE MOVED TO ME!
COME ON, CRAZY LADY. LET'S GO.
WH... MIGUEL? WHAT'RE YOU--?


ACTING AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT NOW MOVE.
I'M NOT LEAVING!
I'M MEANT TO BE DOWNTOWN, MIGUEL! I HAVE TO REDISCOVER MY ROOTS!
DON'T YOU SEE? SPIDER-MAN WOULD WANT IT THAT WAY!
YES YOU ARE.
MA, THAT'S THE LAST THING HE WANTS. TRUST ME ON THIS.
TRUST YOU?! YOU'LL JUST STICK ME BACK IN THAT HOME!
I'LL STICK YOU DOWN A[illegible] IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP! NOW JUST--
HELP! KIDNAPPER! ASSASSIN! CREDIT ABUSER!
MA, WILL YOU--!?!
HELLUP!
BRING THAT ONE TO ME!
TERRIFIC, CRAZY LADY! JUST TERRIFIC!
MIGUEL...?

SO! YOU THINK TO DEFY HE WHO IS CALLED... BLOODHAMMER!
I THOUGHT IT WAS "BLOODSWORD..."
...OR JUST "B.S." FOR SHORT.
NOT ANYMORE.
SEE? HERE'S THE HAMMER.
HERE'S THE BLOOD.
BLOODHAMMER.
WHAT-EVER.
LOOK, YOU GOT A MOTHER?
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF MY MOTHER?
NO. BUT... THAT'S MY MOM THERE.
SHE'S... NOT WELL, OKAY? WITH ALL YOUR FOLLOWERS, YOU WON'T MISS HER. LET ME TAKE HER HOME.
YOUR REQUEST SEEMS REASONABLE.
MUCH OBLIGED
BUT I'M DENYING IT ANYWAY. KILL HIM.

THANKS LOADS, B.S.
PLEASE, DON'T DO THIS! HE'S NOT MUCH OF A SON, BUT HE'S ALL I'VE GOT!
WELL... NOT ALL. I MEAN, GABRIEL IS MUCH NICER. YOU'D LIKE HIM. HE'S AN ARTIST.
I REMEMBER WHEN HE FIRST STARTED DRAWING. HE WAS SO CUTE.
IS THERE SOME POINT TO THIS?
UM... I FORGET.
SAY YOUR PRAYERS, BOY.
MY...
YES, WELL... I'D PRAY TO THOR...
...IF I THOUGHT YOU CRETINS WOULD SHOW RESPECT WHILE I DID IT.
OF COURSE WE'LL SHOW RESPECT! ON YOUR KNEES FOR PRAYERS, FENRIS...
...AFTER WHICH, THE PUMMELING WILL COMMENCE!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

You're in luck! I decided to spare you the agony of reading another of my never-to-be forgotten (and unlikely-to-be-remembered) New Year's poems!

But you don't get off scot-free! In place of the usual valiant bit of versifying, I thought I'd let you in on some of the nifty New Year's resolutions I've made for 1994, in which I resolutely resolve:

1. To give **Jim Cameron** some tips on how to direct action movies!
2. To let **Arnold Schwarzenegger** borrow my personal edition of "Secrets of Body Building."
3. Not to leave **Sharon** [redacted] on "hold" anymore when she phones.
4. To unstintingly offer my financial advice to **Ron Perelman.**
5. To try [redacted] talk **Tom DeFalco** into growing [redacted] beard.
6. To use my influence to have less car chases in BARBIE FASHION.
7. To force **Terry Stewart** to wear [redacted] Marvel T-shirt.
8. To attempt to use alliteration when I write stuff.
9. To convince Marvel to try putting holograms on some covers.
10. To get **Avi Arad** interested in toys. (Sorry, guys — [redacted] inside joke.)
11. To forego my natural reluctance and occasionally put my name in our comicbooks.
12. To finally allow Spidey to guest-star in other Marvel mags.
13. To trick **Fabian Nicieza** into writing more than one comicbook title a month.
14. To continue taking public speaking lessons from BEAVIS AND BUTTHEAD.
15. And, of course, never to rest until I finally learn what "Excelsior" means!

There you have it, True Believers! They're brain dead, I know, but hey, they could have been worse — I could'a put 'em in verse!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

Another year has come to [redacted] close. The crossovers have finished crossing over, the foil covers have been wrapped up, and Thor has been fitted for a straightjacket. All that's left is for us to once again present our annual Marvey Awards for noteworthy Marvel moments from 1993.

The "Worst Math" Award goes to all those people who think the year after 2099 is 3000!

The "First-Name Basis" Award goes to the creative team for the INCREDIBLE HULK: **Peter David** and **Gary Frank** — no last names for these guys! We'd like to recommend they get **Sam** [redacted] to ink the book, and **Tom Vincent** to color it!

The "Worst Secret Identity" Award goes to **Jean Grey** of the X-Men, who goes by the code-name of "Jean Grey!" Way to go, Jeannie — *that'll* fool 'em!

The "You Can Have it Both Ways" Award goes to Mighty Marvel, for introducing new, darker versions of our classic characters — while keeping the originals around, for good measure! (Examples: Thor/Thunderstrike, Captain America/USAgent, Iron Man/War Machine)

The "Crisis of Infinite Crossovers" Award also goes to Marvel, for scheduling an incredible three major crossovers — "Maximum Carnage," the "Midnight Massacre," and the "Infinity War"— to run simultaneously!

The "New Blood" Award goes to all those characters who debuted this year with the word "blood" in their names: **Bloodbath, Bloodhawk, Bloodwraith** ... the "B" volume of the next edition of the Marvel Handbook is going to be packed with more entries than a blood-bank!

The "X For Success" award goes to the suspicious number of titles that debuted in '93 with the letter "X" prominently displayed in their titles! (And we're not just talking *Marvels* here!)

The "Y's Have it" Award goes to all those characters who can't even spell their own names properly — Stryfe, Spyke, Lady Deathstryke — whatever happened to the letter "I"?

The "When I was [redacted] Kid, We Called 'em Comics" Award goes to ultra-prolific writer **Fabian** (X-FORCE) **Nicieza,** who refers to his stories in their credit boxes as "in your face jams"! That Fabe is one hyper-trendy guy!

The "Blind Man's New Clothes Award" goes to **Daredevil,** who finally donned some new threads last year after 30 years of living in the red!

The "Decent Proposal" Award goes to **Jean Grey,** who waited 30 years for Scott Summers to pop the question, and got so sick of waiting that she proposed to him instead!

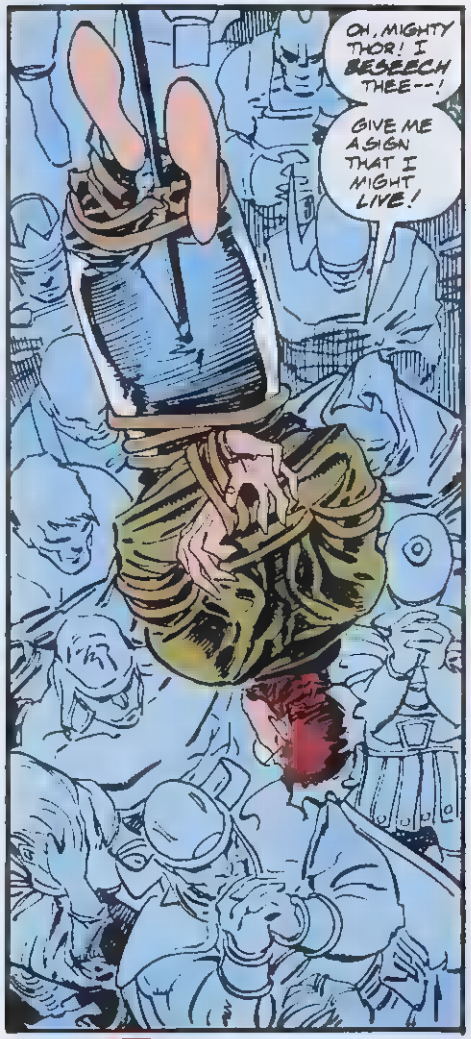
Finally we have the "Like A Phoenix" Award which goes to FANTASTIC FOUR writer **Tom DeFalco,** who killed off Reed Richards and Doctor Doom in the same story, but promised that "Death is a temporary condition in the Marvel Universe!" Guess this means Bucky and Gwen Stacy can breathe [redacted] little easier!

Those are all the awards for this year, but we'll be back next week with another in your face, jam-packed Bullpen Page! [redacted]

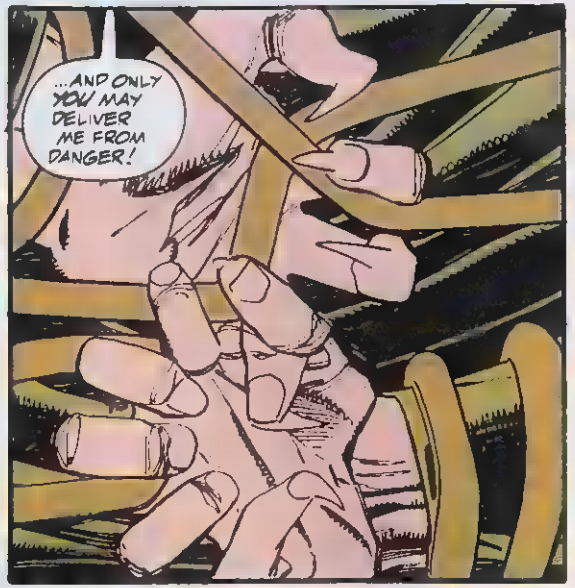
THE BULL'S EYE BY RICK PARKER

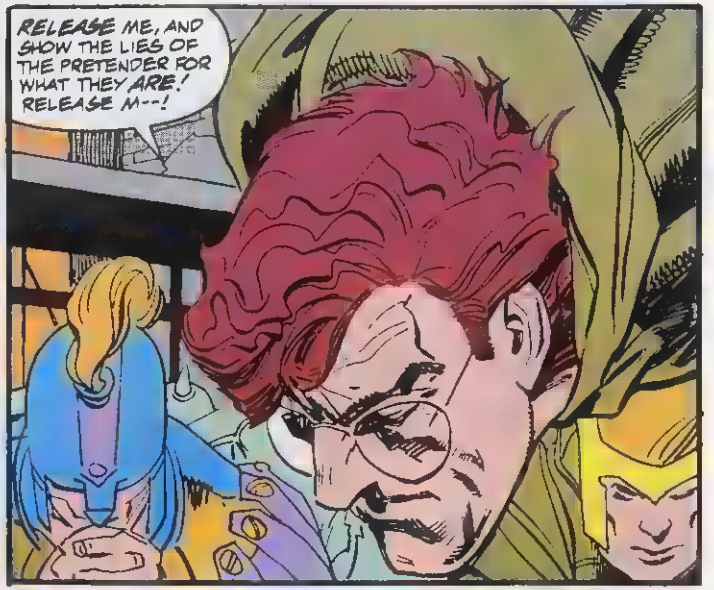
NOW ON SALE

- **BIKER MICE FROM MARS #5:** The TV hit continues! By Ungar/Tyler/Fields!
- **CABLE #9: Omega Red** is coming to America! By Nicieza/Wiesenfeld/Vey!
- **CAPTAIN AMERICA #425:** Cap faces his most personal nemesis — his Super-Soldier Serum! By Gruenwald/Hoover/Bulanadi!
- **CONAN SAGA #84:** "The Shadow and the Scorpion" concludes!
- **DAREDEVIL #326:** Who is the new Daredevil? Guest-starring **Captain America!** By Chichester/McDaniel/Collazo!
- **DARKHAWK #37:** Spitting in the face of **Venom!** By Fingeroth/Smith/ Akin!
- **FORCE WORKS #1:** From the ashes of the Avengers West Coast — with a pop-up cover! By Abnett-Lanning/Tenney/Deming!
- **FORCE WORKS ASHCAN:** 16-page preview of the hot new series — for under a buck!
- **GROO THE WANDERER #110:** Who died and made Groo president? By Aragones/Evanier!
- **HAWKEYE #3 OF 4: War Machine** guest stars! By Dixon/Kolins/Dzon!
- **MARVEL COMICS #149:** A four-part **Typhoid Mary** epic, with guest stars galore! By Nocenti/Lightle!
- **MONSTER MENACE #4 OF 4:** More classic monsters from the early Marvel era!
- **NAMOR #48:** Namor has set his sights on the **Invisible Woman!** Part 9 of *Startlast* by Herdling/Isherwood!
- **NIGHTSTALKERS #17: Dracula's wife** is back, and **Bloodstorm** debuts! By Loveca/Murr/Turner!
- **NOMAD #23:** A Nazi for president? That's worse than Groo! By Nicieza/Mays!
- **PINHEAD #4:** All Pinhead is saying is give peace a chance! By Chichester/Carrasco/Alcatena!
- **REN & STIMPY #16:** Elvis is everywhere — including in this issue! By Boyette/Mitchroney!
- **SAINT SINNER #6:** I swear, you'd forget your soul, if it wasn't attached to you...! By E. Lee/ Brown/Douglas!
- **SCARLET WITCH #3 OF 4:** The Avengers West Coast work forcefully against Wanda! By Abnett-Lanning/Higgins/McKenna!
- **SPIDER-MAN 2099 #17:** Battle with **Bloodsword!** By David/Leonardi/Williamson!
- **SPIDER-MAN CLASSICS #12:** Doc Ock escapes the long arms of the law! By Lee/Ditko!
- **SPIDER-MAN MAGAZINE #1:** For the kiddies! Comics, puzzles, jokes ... and free trading cards! Cover by John Romita Sr.!
- **SPIDER-MAN: MUTANT AGENDA #1 OF 3:** Crossover with the Spidey newspaper strip! By Grant/Kolins/DeLaRosa!
- **STARBLAST #3:** The **Stranger** and the **Starbrand!** By Gruenwald/Trimpe/Cabrera!
- **UNCANNY X-MEN #310:** It's the night before Scott and Jean's wedding! By Lobdell/Romita Jr./Green!
- **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #110: Warrant** has a warrant out for the Lizard! By Kavanagh/Saviuk/Baskerville!


OH, MIGHTY THOR! I BESEECH THEE--!
GIVE ME A SIGN THAT I MIGHT LIVE!

BLOOD-HAMMER!
WHATEVER.
THESE BONDS ARE UNBREAKABLE...
RELEASE ME FROM THE BONDAGE OF THE PRETENDER, BLOOD-SUCKER...


...AND ONLY YOU MAY DELIVER ME FROM DANGER!


RELEASE ME, AND SHOW THE LIES OF THE PRETENDER FOR WHAT THEY ARE! RELEASE M--!

LOOK!
PRAISE THOR, IT'S A MIRACLE!!

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...AND ONLY YOU MAY DELIVER ME FROM DANGER!

RELEASE ME, AND SHOW THE LIES OF THE PRETENDER FOR WHAT THEY ARE! RELEASE M--!

LOOK!

PRAISE THOR, IT'S A MIRACLE!!

PRAISE THOR!

PRAISE THE MIRACLE!

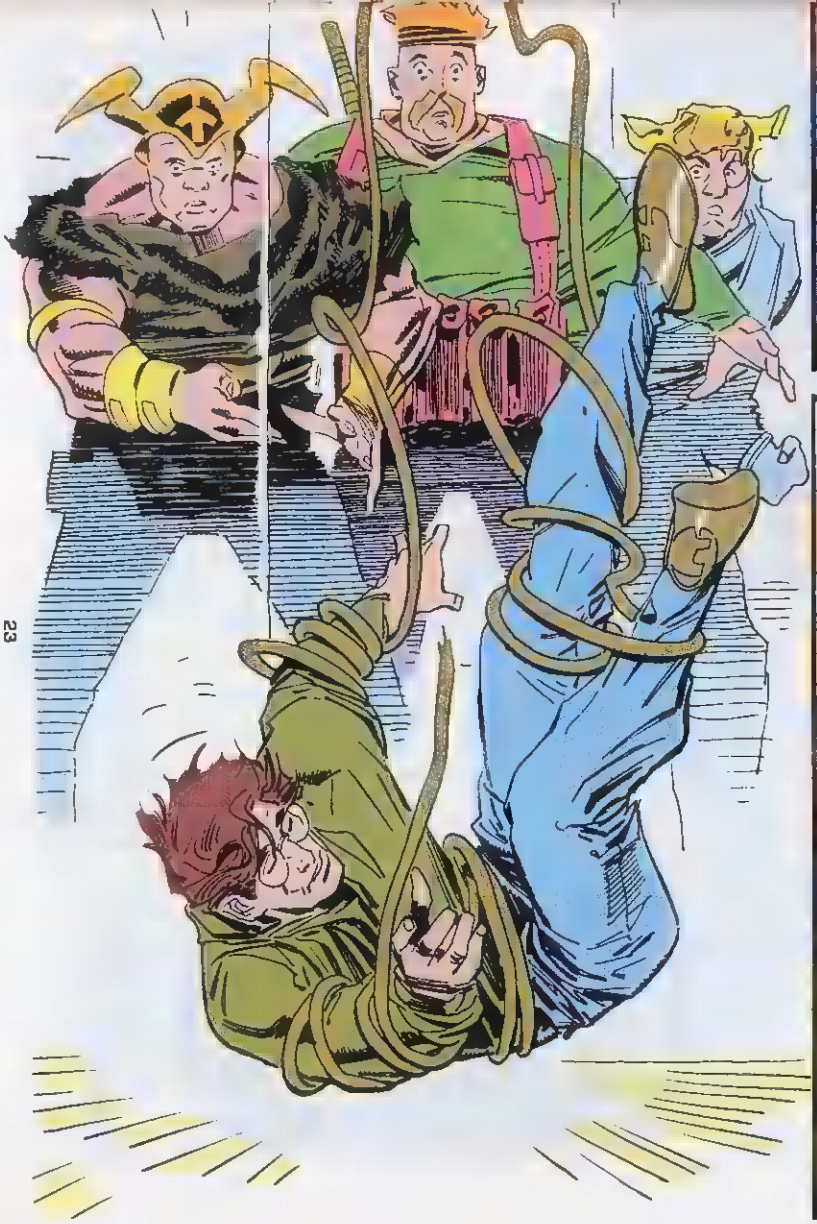
W-WHAT?!

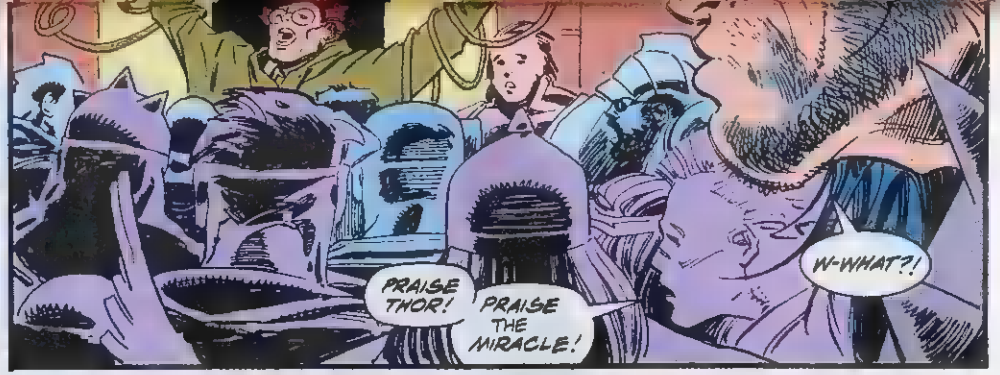
THOR HAS ANSWERED MY ENTREATIES! LET US PRAY FOR GUIDANCE!

YES!

LET US PRAY!

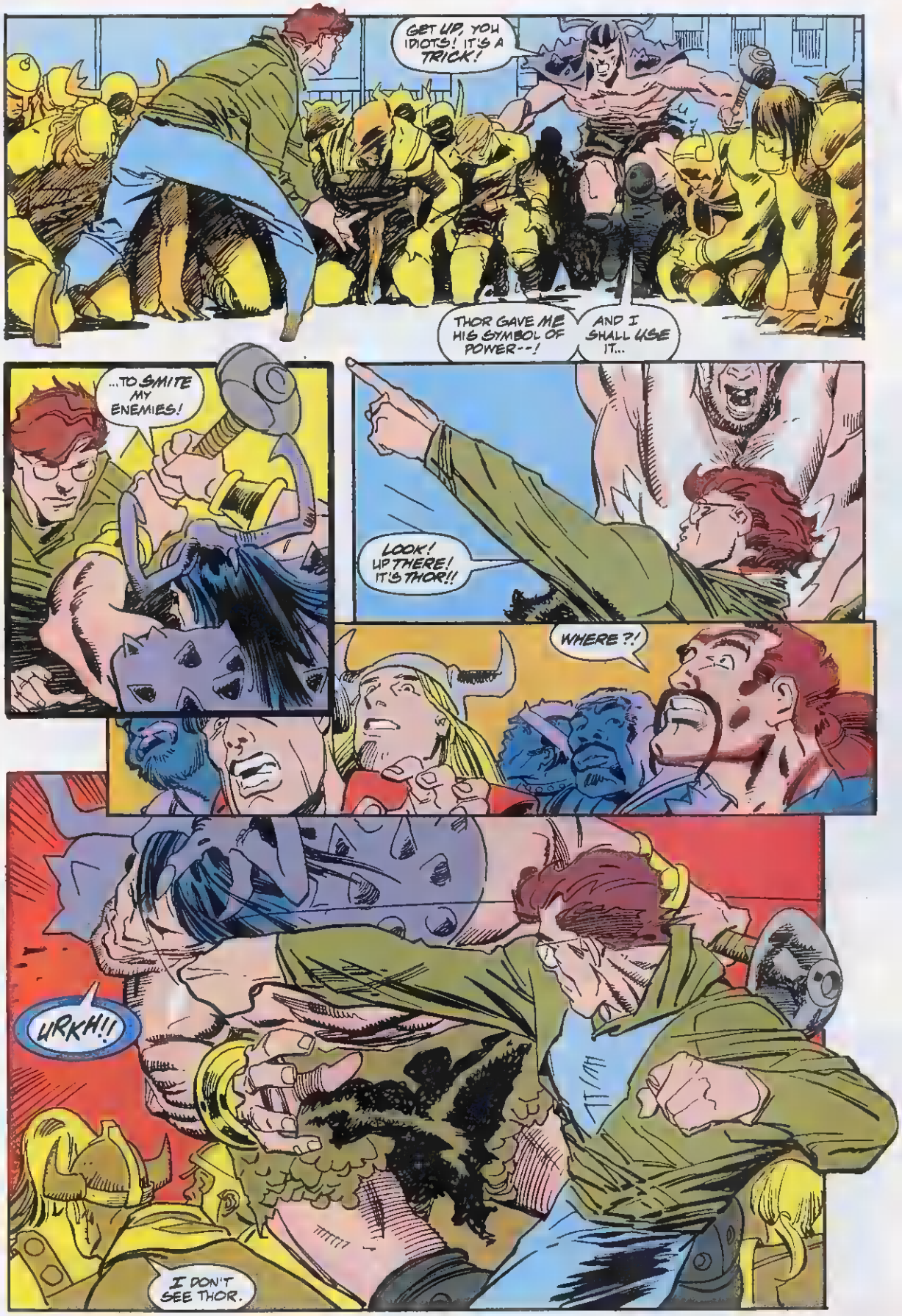
NO! IT'S SOME KIND OF TRICK!



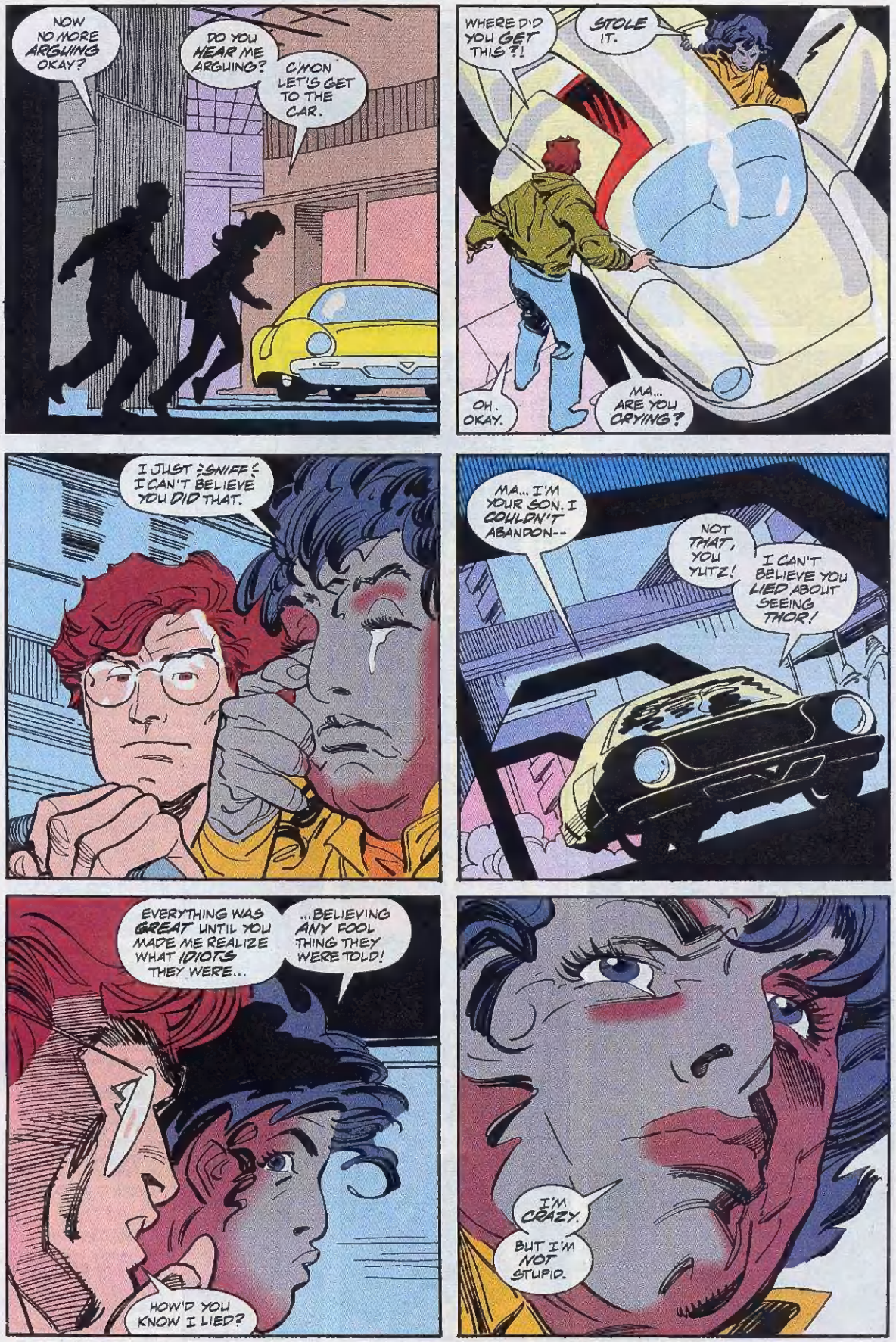

PRAISE THOR!
PRAISE THE MIRACLE!
W-WHAT?!

THOR HAS ANSWERED MY ENTREATIES! LET US PRAY FOR GUIDANCE!
YES!
LET US PRAY!

NO! IT'S SOME KIND OF TRICK!


GET UP, YOU IDIOTS! IT'S A TRICK!
THOR GAVE ME HIS SYMBOL OF POWER--!
AND I SHALL USE IT...
...TO SMITE MY ENEMIES!
LOOK! UP THERE! IT'S THOR!!
WHERE?!
URKH!!
I DON'T SEE THOR.

BLOODCLOT HAS FAINTED!
OVERCOME BY THE MAJESTY OF WHAT HE WITNESSED!
DID YOU SEE? THOR'S IMAGE, FLOATING FAR ABOVE?
ANYONE WHO TRULY HAS FAITH SAW. DID YOU SEE?
OF...OF COURSE!
BULL! I HEARD YOU SAY, "I DON'T SEE HIM!"
IT TOOK ME A MINUTE. I GOT BAD EYES, OKAY?
WELL I SAW HIM! WITH BLAZING EYES AND RED HAIR--
IT WAS BLOND!
RED, LIKE HIS BEARD!
HE WAS CLEAN-SHAVEN!
YOU LIE!
I SAW HIM FIRST!
HE'LL STRIKE YOU DOWN!
YOU FIRST!


NOW NO MORE ARGUING OKAY?
DO YOU HEAR ME ARGUING?
C'MON LET'S GET TO THE CAR.
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?!
STOLE IT.
OH. OKAY.
MA... ARE YOU CRYING?
I JUST ;SNIFF; I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT.
MA... I'M YOUR SON. I COULDN'T ABANDON--
NOT THAT, YOU YUTZ!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LIED ABOUT SEEING THOR!
EVERYTHING WAS GREAT UNTIL YOU MADE ME REALIZE WHAT IDIOTS THEY WERE...
...BELIEVING ANY FOOL THING THEY WERE TOLD!
HOW'D YOU KNOW I LIED?
I'M CRAZY.
BUT I'M NOT STUPID.

HAHAHAHA!
OH, SHUT UP.
HUNH.
GOT YOU BACK AGAIN DURING ALL THE CRAZINESS.
PRIED YOU OUT FROM UNDER BLOODGUY WHILE ALL THOSE FOOLS WERE FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER.
SO POWERLESS NOW.
SUCH A USELESS WEAPON.
AH, ME. THE LORD GIVETH AND THE LORD TAKETH AWAY...
PARTICULARLY THE LORDS OF INDUSTRY.
NEXT: WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH LYLA?

ARACHNOPHILIA

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NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

ATTENTION CORRESPONDENTS: ALL LETTERS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS THOUGH WE WILL WITHHOLD THAT INFO BY REQUEST

Out Of My Head

Dear Joey,

Congratulations on the outstanding job you're doing. It must be difficult. Currently, I collect SPIDEY 2099, DOOM 2099 and 2099 UNLIMITED. I love 'em all.

To express how SPIDEY 2099 affects me personally, I must tell you this anecdote.

I'm 14 and have lived in Arizona all my life. When my parents announced we were moving to Missouri, I was overcome with sadness.

My whole life was in Tucson: my friends, my school and my local comic book store. The day we were to move, I helped pack everything into a U-Haul trailer. I kept my SPIDEY 2099 issues aside in the back seat. As we left the city, I felt unbelievably sad. I got my issue of SPIDEY 2099 #1 and read it. Already I felt better. When I saw the road signs leaving home and got sad, I remembered Miguel's first statement to Venture ("Hi"), or any other remark that was just plain hilarious.

Anyway, SPIDEY 2099 helped me get through this major move. That'll give you an idea how your title affects me. Everything about 2099 has been great so far! Make mine Marvel 2099!

Desmond Silfies
Kansas City, MO 64133

I've done the move thing a *lot*, Dez, so I especially appreciate your letter! Thanks much for the encouragement. I'm glad we gave you some!

Dear *Arachnophilia*,

I like what you're doing with SPIDER-MAN 2099! It's intriguing! I haven't picked up a comic (much less bought one) since I was 8 years old. That was 12 years ago! When I saw the first issue of SPIDER-MAN 2099 I was compelled to buy it. I loved it! The thought of a Spider-Man in the future? Unbelievable!

I'd like to see Net Prophet and Spidey work together in the future. They seem to be almost perfect partners. Thanatos needs to be toned down a bit in order to be a more adequate adversary for Spider-Man. Please stay away from having Spidey encounter too many previous villains. I'm afraid it'll become like the 20th century Spidey against Carnage and Venom. Don't get me wrong! They were good encounters, but after a while it can get boring.

PFC Michael W. Edging
24 TC
Ft. Riley, KS

Don't worry about too many established villains, Mike! After Bloodsword... er, Blood*hammer*, who you've just seen, a brand-new villain shows up next issue!

Dear *Arachnophilia*,

Congratulations on the success of your book SPIDER-MAN 2099. It was the first comic I ever bought and now I just can't stop buying the darn thing! I've read the present Spider-Man's comics and they are well written too, but somehow yours is better. I like how you make Miguel have a sense of humor, how you base the book on his regular life and how you have one of the best supporting casts I've ever seen.

Are you going to make a TV show of Spider-Man 2099? It'd make a really good show! People around here would watch it as much as they watch the *X-Men Animated Adventures* and believe me, everyone here watches the X-Men.

I think I know who this Thanatos guy is. **[Note: this section of this letter was cut by Joey.]**

Will Miguel and Dana be getting married anytime in the near future?

Until Spidey 2099 accidentally kills himself scratching his nose, make mine Marvel 2099!

Cem
230 Sanders Lane
Havelock, NC 28532

No TV or wedding plans in the near future, Cem, and as for Thanatos, your theory was so close that we decided to keep that part of your letter to ourselves. Can we swear you to secrecy? Will you settle for a bribe?

Dear *Arachnophilia*,

Even though Spider-Man was never my favorite character, I decided to pick up this magazine. I know everyone is probably sitting on the edge of their seats to know my all-important reason. It's because of Peter David. I read every mag I can find with his name in it and SPIDER-MAN 2099 lives up to his fabulous tradition.

Now that I'm a regular reader, I'm praising everyone connected to this book. Never lose the fabulous artistic talents of Rick Leonardi. Every time I pick up the book I look for Sir David and Sir Leonardi's names to reassure myself this book will be tremendous. Al Williamson's inks are also extraordinary to say the least. The crew deserves a big round of applause.

This Spidey far exceeds the present-day one. What's best about this book is the extensive supporting cast. The characters are believable individuals who deal with tough decisions. Most writers seem to focus on the super powers and not enough on the people behind the mask and the real-life problems they face.

Please keep up the level of excellence I have come to expect. Thanks for all the memories.

Scott Sauer
[Address withheld by request]

Actually, Scott, the term "2099" in the logo will reassure you that "this book will be tremendous." Ahem!

Dear Spider People,

Please, please, please tell me and everyone else you are not going to do what I think you are going to do. In issue #13 Thanatos refers to himself as "we." Do not, I repeat DO NOT make him into a Venom-like character. If you are going to make a Venom, do it right and use the modern Venom as a template. Please answer my letter. I'll lose sleep if you don't.

Ben Graham
2808 Francis Dr.
Godfrey, IL 62035

Rest easy, Ben, Thanatos is not a Venom clone, but there is definitely a reason why he referred to himself as "we."

MORE OF MARVEL 2099

Ravage 2099 #16 Ravage's principles kept him a hero even after his disastrous exposure to radiation transformed him into a beast-man...but what if a man with similar powers wasn't quite as noble? Also, Grant Miehm is messing with his art style...we're dying to know what you guys think! Check it out!

Doom 2099 #15 This ish marks the debut of Radian, a character whose background and powers could change the very fabric of 2099!

X-Men 2099 #6 Thought the Theatre of Pain was something? Ha! Our heroes meet a stranger, more sinister group of villains, *just as their own team is splitting up!* You read it here first!

Punisher 2099 #14 It's New Villain Month here in 2099! Wait'll you see what Pat and Tony have concocted to throw at Jake Gallows this time!

NEXT ISSUE

Beats us. It's not like anybody ever tells *us* anything. I mean, we're only the *editors*, for pity's sake. Hey, a phone call sometime would be *nice*.